

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A flow restrictor defining a restricted flow path for liquid, said flow restrictor comprising:

a housing defining an elongated conduit having a tapering conical wall defining a first screw thread and a water-channel thread extending therealong including generally between a first opening into a distal region of the conduit for receiving a flow of liquid and a second opening into a proximal region of the conduit, and

an axially elongated plug received into said conduit, with a surface of said plug opposed to said tapering conical wall and defining a second screw thread and a smooth tapering surface, said second screw thread disposed in threaded engagement with said first screw thread defined by said tapering conical wall of said housing, and opposed surface surfaces of said water-channel thread of said housing and said tapering surface of said plug being disposed in sealing engagement within said conduit and opposite to define a region for liquid flow, said housing with, said water-channel thread of said housing and said tapering surface of said plug thereby cooperatively defining a generally spiral liquid flow path along said water channel screw thread and said tapering surface, conduit for flow of liquid generally between said first opening and said second opening for delivery of liquid from the conduit;

wherein the plug comprises a first material, the housing comprises a second material harder than the first material, and sealing engagement comprises penetrating

engagement of the water-channel thread of the housing with the tapering surface of the plug.

18. (Original) The flow restrictor of claim 17, wherein said plug is received into said conduit through said second opening.

19. (Original) The flow restrictor of claim 17, wherein said plug and said housing are injection molded.

20. (Currently Amended) The flow-restrictor of claim 19, wherein said plug comprises ~~a first material, an insert comprises a second material, said first material being softer than said second material~~ polyethylene and the housing comprises ABS plastic.

21. (Currently Amended) The flow restrictor of claim 17, wherein the ~~first screw thread comprises water-channel thread includes~~ a pointed protrusion in penetrating engagement with the tapering surface of the plug.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) The flow restrictor of claim 17, wherein the plug comprises a third screw thread, the second screw thread and the third screw thread are separated by a gap.

24. (Currently Amended) A flow restrictor defining a restricted flow path for liquid, said flow restrictor comprising:

a housing defining an elongated conduit having a tapering conical wall defining a first screw thread and a water-channel thread extending therealong including generally between a first opening into a distal region of the conduit for receiving a flow of liquid and a second opening into a proximal region of the conduit, and

an axially elongated plug received into said conduit, with a surface of said plug opposed to said tapering conical wall and defining a second screw thread and a smooth

tapering surface, said second screw thread disposed in threaded engagement with said first screw thread defined by said tapering conical wall of said housing, and opposed surface surfaces of said water-channel thread of said housing and said tapering surface of said plug being disposed in sealing engagement within said conduit and opposite to define a region for liquid flow, said housing with, said water-channel thread of said housing and said tapering surface of said plug thereby cooperatively defining a generally spiral liquid flow path along said water channel screw thread and said tapering surface, conduit for flow of liquid generally between said first opening and a port defined by said flow restrictor for delivery of liquid from said conduit;

wherein the plug comprises a first material, the housing comprises a second material harder than the first material, and sealing engagement comprises penetrating engagement of the water-channel thread of the housing with the tapering surface of the plug.

25. (Previously Presented) The flow restrictor of claim 24, wherein said plug, at least in part, defines an aperture interconnecting said conduit and said port.

26. (Previously Presented) The flow restrictor of claim 25, wherein said port is defined, at least in part, by said plug.

27. (New) The flow restrictor of claim 24, wherein the tapered shaft of the plug has a taper angle of about 1.5 degrees.

28. (New) The flow restrictor of claim 24, wherein the plug comprises a third screw thread, the second screw thread and the third screw thread are separated by a gap.

29. (New) The flow restrictor of claim 24, wherein the plug is made of polyethylene and the housing is made of ABS plastic.

30. (New) The flow restrictor of claim 24, wherein the housing has a length that is about two times a length of the plug.

31. (New) The flow restrictor of claim 24, wherein about one half of the tapered shaft of the plug extends into the conduit of the housing.

32. (New) The flow restrictor of claim 24, wherein the flow path cross section is adapted to restrict water flow using capillary characteristics of water and prevent small particles from clogging the flow path.

33. (New) The flow restrictor of claim 17, wherein the tapered shaft of the plug has a taper angle of about 1.5 degrees.

34. (New) The flow restrictor of claim 17, wherein the housing has a length that is about two times a length of the plug.

35. (New) The flow restrictor of claim 17, wherein about one half of the tapered shaft of the plug extends into the conduit of the housing.

36. (New) The flow restrictor of claim 17, wherein the flow path cross section is adapted to restrict water flow using capillary characteristics of water and prevent small particles from clogging the flow path.

37. (New) A flow restrictor comprising:
a housing defining an elongated conduit defining a water-channel thread; and
an axially elongated plug threaded into the conduit, the plug having a smooth surface opposite the water-channel thread, wherein the water-channel thread of the housing and the smooth surface of the plug are in sealing engagement and cooperatively define a liquid flow path along the conduit;
wherein the plug comprises a first material, the housing comprises a second material harder than the first material, and sealing engagement comprises penetrating engagement of a harder radially inwardly extending pointed protrusion of the water-channel thread of the housing with the softer smooth surface of the plug.